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No garden flower, not even the sweet pea at the present time, is more generally cultivated than the pansy. It is universally admired.

"Of all the bonny buds that blow
In bright or cloudy weather,
Of all the flowers that come and go
The whole twelve months together,
The little purple pansy brings
Thoughts of the sweetest, saddest things."

But "the little purple pansy" has become, by the gardener's art, a large flower with an infinite variety in its markings and colors. The most careful attention is given to its breeding and the many different varieties in which the seeds are offered will, for the most part, come true to name, so that one can depend on raising such colors as may be desired.

What a garden of beauty one might make with only pansies, in their manifold variety! Our hot summers are not to the liking of this plant, yet with the care that may be given it will be found to be patient and grateful. It can be successfully raised in every part of our country, even in the Gulf States, where it is a winter bloomer. At the North it continues in good bloom from May until some time in July,—often until mid-summer, and depending much upon the frequency of showers. From the middle or last of July until September the flowers are smaller, but again become of good size when the cool weather of fall comes on.

A great many people, from one cause and another, but very many for lack of knowing just what to do, fail to raise the plants from seed, and so, if they have them, procure the young plants at greater expense, and content themselves with fewer of them than they might if they should raise them from the seed. To have the plants for spring blooming it is necessary to start the seed in the house in January or February, or else the latter part of summer. For various reasons starting the plants in the early months of the year is apt to be neglected; but the other opportunity,

that of sowing at this season, may more easily be improved. In the month of August the ground is warm, and a little mellow bed may easily be prepared in some half-shady place where the seeds will quickly germinate. A little space only is required,—three or four square feet at the most,—for a paper of seeds. Sow the seeds in rows about a quarter of an inch in depth, dropping them about an inch apart in the shallow drill, and then covering and pressing the soil well down upon the seeds. Now give a gentle watering, and have at hand the means to shade from the hot sun, either by a piece of cotton cloth laid over a framework of sticks raised above the bed, or a screen made from laths. The plants will soon appear. Give water from day to day as needed. Some time in September the plants will be strong enough to place in the bed where they are to remain to bloom. Set them in rows about ten inches apart each way, or eight inches one way and twelve the other, and they will make strong plants for blooming in the spring. The bed for them must be made rich by digging in old well rotted manure. If seed pods are not allowed to form in summer, the flower stems being cut when the blooms wither, the flowers will be larger.

ABOUT NYMPHÆAS.



IN 1877 or 1878 Mrs. Mary Treat, of Vineland, N. J., sent three tubers of Audubon's nymphæa to Professor Baird, then secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, at Washington. Somehow those tubers were sent to me to care for. I know very well how it happened, but it is not necessary to go into that; suffice it to say that I thought myself entitled to do as I pleased with them, and I took one tuber, wrapped it in a ball of clay, and quietly dropped it into the little pond at the Agricultural Department. I still had three plants, for I had divided one of the strongest. Those three were kept in a stove,—I don't know whether they lived or died; I have had no knowledge of them since they were potted. But the plant of *Nymphæa flava*, planted outside, grew after wintering (in a deciduous state, too) at the bottom of a northern pond. It was, as far as I know, the first yellow nymphæa to flower in the Northern States, and it, together with its western expression (*Mexicana*) are bestowing their colors on a good many other forms. *N. tuberosa*, and probably also *N. alba*, have yellow forms in cultivation now. Our growers are very learned with varietal names given in Europe, but as a matter of fact European raisers rarely tell anybody their "trade secrets," as they deem them.

Nymphæa flava is a fairly distinct type, of limited distribution.

The most ubiquitous type in the Northern Hemisphere is the white water lily,—called *Nymphæa alba*, etc. It is greatly differentiated and distributed, and in many places has a rose or pink form, which the Scandinavians and French have regarded as specific. I wonder which would have been most likely to happen supposing the type to have existed through all the chevychasing of glaciation,—would it pass from red to white, or white to red? What matters! we have whites and reds in plenty now, and they are bountifully provided with names, too, both by botanists and florists. Very often neither are sure if a particular form is entitled to its name, but of course they must call it something. I doubt, however, if they should invent beyond the bounds of men's understanding.

Customers may ask for a hardy yellow, red, or white water lily, naming the price, and they will probably be served. But there are wild pink forms in most of the Atlantic States. Are they the fittest to survive, or are the albinos?

There are pigmy forms of the Asiatic and American types, and probably of the European also. Botanists have characterized the leaves of nymphæa a good deal, but I doubt if they are more constant than the flowers. The European *N. alba* has sixteen recurving rays to the

stigma; does that hold good through its varieties or all the (so-called) Northern species? It will be a nice little study for your readers this summer. The East Anglican forms of *N. alba* sometimes develop immense rhizomes.

There are no hardy nymphæas from the Southern Hemisphere that I know of. It would fill your whole number if I worked up my notes, so I will briefly touch on the tropical types. They may be grouped, I fancy, under *N. stellata* and *N. lotus*.

Various forms of *N. stellata*, under a host of varietal names, are found in Asia, Africa, Malaysia, etc. They are differentiated a good deal in size and form of leaf, and the flowers vary from white through light blue to darker blue and reddish purple. Some varieties are called "versicolor," and the name correctly expresses the type. At the south some of the Asiatic forms (under the name of the obtuse petaled South African *scutifolia*) have stood the southern winters, and they are the most likely to yield a hardy hybrid blue nymphæa for the north. *N. elegans* (catalogued also as *gracilis*) has been known in herbaria for half a century, and was figured in 1850 or soon after (*Bot. Mag. t. 4604*) with bluish flowers. This form was re-discovered in Texas about two years ago, and a grower (Mr. Tricker) claims he has it in cultivation, but not yet for sale,—so we may soon expect to see a fairly hardy bluish nymphæa.

N. elegans is much like forms of *stellata* in aspect, and curiously enough it has a suspicion of the same colors, viz: Whitish, bluish, and purplish. Did it spread westward from here to Asia, or eastwards from Asia to America,—who knows? Growers and botanists harp considerably on the tuberous or slender rhizomes of the various forms, and no doubt they are fairly constant, but they certainly soon vary in size. I had a little tuber of *N. gigantea* from a four-inch pot in my hands the other day, that I took for a *nelumbium* seed until I magnified it with spectacles!

Nymphæa lotus is found over most of the tropics. It blooms on dull days early and on bright days later, and continues after dark,—just the reverse of the common ones. The flowers are red, (yellowish in forms of *ampla* and *Amazonica*), and white. The leaves are entire or toothed, often of large size, and variously shaped and colored. They are sinuately or acuminate toothed, and Mr. Tricker, of Dreers, told me the other day that *ampla*, found in South Florida and the West Indies, seemed to him like *dentata*. There is a form on record since 1802, said to have been found in warm springs of the river Pecze, Hungary. This seems to be the most northern expression of the type; it is called *thermalis*, but however sure growers may be about the name, I

should like to have a very well authenticated plant indeed before I swore to it. It is described as having pure white flowers, and peltate, sharply toothed leaves. *N. rubra*, *Devoniensis*, *rosea*, and *Sturtevanti* are all reddish expressions of *Nymphæa lotus*.

There is no better or more simple way to manage hardy water lilies than to dig a hole, sink the half of a burnt-out oil barrel in the hole, fill it three parts full of well manured rose soil, then put in the plants and fill up with water, and keep full or nearly full. Never plant before you put out coleus. For such as spread sink the tub a foot or eighteen inches below the surface and bevel the soil from a larger diameter down to the rim of the tub, so that it will occupy the center of a saucer-shaped depression, which can be filled with water as the plants spread; some soils may need puddling.

Trenton, N. J. JAMES MCPHERSON.

THE LIGUSTRUMS.

LIGUSTRUMS, or privets, are rapid growing shrubs, attaining a height of five to twelve feet, by as much in breadth, growing in a compact, regular form. The foliage is of a dark green color, very ornamental, while the flowers, which are produced in panicles in June and July, are pure white and quite fragrant. All of the varieties are excellent lawn plants, well adapted for groups or single specimens, while the common privet and California privet make excellent ornamental hedges; the latter being one of our best shrubs for planting near the sea shore. All bear well severe pruning, and a collection of the different varieties will make a most interesting group on the lawn. They will grow and do well in almost any soil and situation, but when grown in groups or as single specimens, where the very best results are desired, it is advisable that the soil be rich and the plants given sufficient space in which to properly develop themselves.

The plants should be well cut back to a proper shape when planted, and during their season of growth it is advisable to examine them occasionally and pinch back all rank growing shoots that show a tendency to throw the plant out of shape. While the plants are small, grass or weeds should not be permitted to grow around them, and occasional top dressings of good stable manure applied during the early winter will be decidedly beneficial. In planting hedges let the soil be properly prepared, as this is a most essential point, and place the plants from six to ten inches apart, according to their size, cutting them well back. Plant as early in the spring as possible.

The ligustrums are of rapid growth; propagation is readily effected by cuttings of the ripened shoots. Of the many varieties in cultivation the following are the most desirable:

L. IBOTA.—This is popularly known as the Japanese flowering privet, and grows about five feet in height by as much in breadth. It has dark green, oval foliage, and very showy panicles of pure white, fragrant flowers, which are produced in the greatest abundance during the month of July.

L. IBOTA AMURENSE.—The Amoor River privet grows about eight feet in height by as much in breadth. It is a very upright and vigorous growing variety, with light green, oval foliage, and showy spikes of pure white flowers.

L. OVALIFOLIUM.—The well known California privet, and when grown as a single specimen attains a height of from eight to ten feet. It has almost evergreen, deep green, medium-sized leaves, and produces small panicles of pure white flowers during the month of June. It is very patient of pruning and is one of the best hedge plants.

L. VULGARIS is the common European privet and grows about six feet in height. The leaves are of a dark green color. The plant blooms during the month of June, the showy spikes of pure white flowers being followed by bunches of black berries which remain on for a long time. Properly managed it forms a fine hardy hedge, and is an excellent lawn plant.

L. VULGARE VARIEGATUM.—This variety is of upright habit and grows about five feet in height. It has glaucous green leaves which are beautifully and distinctly margined with white.

L. VULGARE BUXIFOLIUM.—The Box-leaved privet is a very distinct variety of upright habit, with short, thick, dark green leaves which remain on the plant until late in autumn.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

Floral Park, N. Y.

THE YELLOW RAMBLER.

A NEW climbing rose that promises to be of much value is about to be introduced by the nursery firm of Jackson & Perkins. It is called "Aglais" or the Yellow Rambler, and from its parentage and habit seems to be well entitled to the latter name.

The rose was obtained from Mr. Peter Lambert, the well known and reliable German grower, under an arrangement giving the establishment named the sole privilege of introducing it in the United States and Canada. Mr. Lambert has tested it for the past eight years, which shows a most rare and commendable carefulness on his part, a carefulness which it would be well for all originators to emulate, as it would greatly reduce the number of doubtful novelties that are yearly foisted upon the public.

allow a most beautiful color to be added to the climbing roses of northern gardens, heretofore deprived of yellows by the severity of the climate.

The Yellow Rambler is a seedling from the Japanese Polyantha sarmentosa, crossed with pollen of Reve d'Or. The former of these was undoubtedly a progenitor of the Crimson Rambler, which, therefore, has in the Yellow Rambler a near relative. In foliage, habit of growth and manner of blooming the two show their relationship.

The Yellow Rambler is a vigorous grower,—well established plants making shoots eight to ten feet high in a season. The flowers are produced in splendid trusses, often as many as 120 to 150 blossoms on one shoot. The trusses are pyramidal in shape, like those of the Crimson Rambler, and the flowers are very sweetly fragrant, a quality not possessed by the Crimson Rambler. The flowers are nearly full, of a cupped shape and of a decided golden yellow like Madame Falcot, and darker than the Coquette de Lyon. As the noisette rose, Allister Stella Gray, has been sold under the name of Golden Rambler, it may be added, to avoid all chance of confusion, that the Yellow Rambler rose is entirely different and probably the greater acquisition, since it has such very considerable hardiness, great vigor, and the habit of blooming in large trusses, like those of the Crimson Rambler.

THE SHAMROCK.

IN answer to an inquiry about the shamrock in our May issue, page 102, we stated that the term is applied to the clover leaf in some parts

of Ireland, and that in England the oxalis is thought to be the shamrock. The answer was brief, as it was not thought that the statement would be questioned. However, in the Letter Box of July, K. F. says:

I should like to tell E. E. E., Pontiac, and whose inquiry appears in the May number, that the real Irish Shamrock is the "white clover," and I beg to say, with all due respect to the editor, that any trifoliate leaf will not do for it. A shamrock is a shamrock, and oxalis won't do for it.

The subject also appears to have attracted the attention of the *Southern Flor-*



THE YELLOW RAMBLER ROSE.

The great and distinctive value of the Yellow Rambler lies in its very considerable hardiness, a quality so rare in yellow roses, save those of the rather unattractive Austrian type, and so difficult to secure. It has withstood unprotected and without injury a continued temperature of from zero to two degrees below, and with a very little care can probably be grown nearly everywhere that other roses succeed well. This characteristic alone would be enough to make the rose a valuable introduction, since it would

ist and Gardener, and it expresses its opinion in this wise:

It is not the fact that a species of oxalis is generally considered the shamrock in England. A botanist or student here and there may so consider it, but not the masses. Except as indicated, that which is accepted the world over as the shamrock is *Trifolium repens*. Bentham, in his "British Flora," refers to this matter thus: "In Ireland it is believed to be of comparatively recent introduction, although it is now taken as the national emblem in substitution of the wood-sorrel oxalis, which is asserted by some writers to have been the original shamrock." Whatever may have been the original, the shamrock of the Irish now is as stated; and it is a good deal of a cosmopolitan, being a part of pastures all over the temperate regions of the earth and going northward into the Arctic Circle. Of course, it is as the Irish say about this—the right to determine about their own national emblem, certainly.

The authority here quoted by our contemporary confirms our statement that the term "shamrock" is applied to the clover or *Trifolium*, which is believed to be of comparatively recent introduction, and is used as the national emblem in substitution for the wood-sorrel, *Oxalis acetosella*. Robert Bentley, F.L.S., in his Manual of Botany, says:

Oxalis acetosella, common wood-sorrel, is a common indigenous plant, abounding in woods. It has ternate leaves, and is considered by many to be the true shamrock, as its leaves open about St. Patrick's Day.

Nicholson's Dictionary of Gardening says:

In some districts of Ireland this name is applied to one or more species of clover; in England the wood-sorrel is generally supposed to be the shamrock.

From this statement it would appear that a clover leaf of any kind, not merely that of the white clover, would be accepted as a sprig of shamrock.

The valuable Rural Cyclopaedia, of Wilson, makes these statements under the caption "Shamrock":

The national emblem of Ireland. It is commonly supposed to have been selected by St. Patrick as an emblematic illustration of the doctrine of the Trinity; it is inferred, from the taste and scholarship of St. Patrick, to be a plant of much elegance and beauty; it is known, from notices of it in old Irish writers, to possess a sour taste and to have been generally eaten by the ancient inhabitants of Ireland; and it has, for centuries, been most in request at the festival of St. Patrick in the month of March, and may, therefore, be supposed to have originally been in all its glory at that season of the year. What particular plant, then, is it? The word shamrock is merely a general Irish name for a trefoil, and gives no information. Common modern opinion points to the white clover, *Trifolium repens*; but it is widely at war with the conditions which we have stated. Mr. Bicheno, in a pithy and learned paper in the Journal of the Royal Institution, points, and we think points convincingly, to the common wood-sorrel, *Oxalis acetosella*, a plant which pushes forth its delicate leaves and blossoms with the earliest spring, and is more beautifully three-leaved than even the white clover, and must have formed a most agreeable and healthy salad to the old Irish, who lived chiefly upon flesh, and may be pronounced abundantly worthy of all the honors heaped upon it by both St. Patrick and the Irish people. The wood-sorrel, indeed, is now a comparatively scarce plant in Ireland, while the clover is plentiful; but, in the olden times of the Irish forests, before arable cultivation became general, the wood-sorrel may have been plentiful and the clover scarce.

There can be little doubt when all the circumstances are considered, that the original shamrock was the oxalis, and though now the clover leaf is used, it is because it is more convenient and abundant. Some years since this question was brought up in *The Garden*, the valuable publication of William Robinson. The editor had the following to say:

St. Patrick's Day has brought the usual crop of speculators as to what the true shamrock is. It is not *Trifolium repens*, or any of the *Trifoliums*. Irish pictures and illuminations prove the ancient emblematic shamrock to have been a plant of quite another order, viz., the *Oxalis acetosella*, or wood-sorrel. This probably grew in prodigious quantities before the extensive woods of Ireland were cut down. The shamrock of old was said to have been used as food; but one can hardly imagine the possibility of human beings feasting upon trifolium; but the wood-sorrel is a most refreshing esculent on hot summer days. The trifoliums (*T. minus*, *T. repens*) and *Medicago lupulina*, being in good leaf at this time of year, and stronger to resist the wear and tear of the buttonhole or hot hand than the oxalis, have doubtless for these reasons become the recognized shamrocks of modern days.

The question is now believed to be quite thoroughly considered, and with only one conclusion: That the oxalis or wood-sorrel was the original shamrock, but the clover leaf has been substituted in Ireland for convenience. But because a substitute has been accepted the original will certainly not be invalidated. So, in our northern States, usually ice-bound during March, or the greater part of it, very many can supply themselves with oxalis leaves taken from house plants, now very generally cultivated, when it would be almost impossible to procure clover leaves. The wearers of oxalis leaves on the 17th of March need have no fear that their fidelity to old Ireland or its patron saint, will be questioned.

Clover leaves of any kind, the white, the large red, the crimson, and any of the species of *medicago*, among them the alfalfa or lucerne, or any of the species of oxalis, according to convenience, may be properly used as the Irish national emblem.

* * *

SPRING AND SUMMER IN MY GARDEN.

MAY 12th. The ragged robin, *Lychnis flosculi*, opens its first flower today; it will bloom more or less the whole summer, but its main display will be this month and next, branching and budding for many weeks. There is a mat of radical leaves which start very early and the erect, leafy stems are a foot or two high. The double, bright crimson flowers are visible from a long distance—you see a red star so far away you cannot tell what sort of a plant bears it. It bears no seed, but its offsets are numerous; dividing and resetting will increase it to any extent. Water on or near the surface in winter will kill it; in dry soil it is perfectly hardy, though it is a slightly imperfect perennial. The center of a clump may die out now and then, leaving a ring of offsets, but with decent soil, and grass kept out, you may always have its beautiful, scentless flowers, which are of many sizes,—according to their position on the stem,—are two inches across sometimes, and are borne in profusion. A good plant, which should be in every collection.

The old *Pæonia officinalis* from Europe, is quite different in habit from the more modern Chinese race, but it is as good as

any of them, perhaps. I read that one had made a *pæony* bloom by dividing and resetting it, and this may be necessary at long intervals, but not frequently. This root is perhaps forty years old and has stood in its present place twenty years. Ten or more years ago I divided it into two parts and planted them side by side; they now form one solid mass which today has eighty buds and blossoms. A mulch of chip dirt or old manure late in fall has been the culture. It is in the grass and a ring of yellow daffodils is round it, which bloom while it is yet small. Soon their ripening leaves are buried in the *pæony's* dense foliage, whose heavy shade is fatal to grass and weeds. Another, a Chinese *pæony*, has twenty-six later buds; it was a mailing plant eight years ago. Some sorts flower much later than others,—with various Chinese sorts following officinalis and each other, you may have a long season of them. No plant can be of easier culture, and the great red buds pushing up through the earth are one of the first indications of returning spring.

The native scarlet and yellow columbine, *Aquilegia Canadensis*, now in bloom, haunts my garden, selfsowing and coming up here and there, flowering earlier than other columbines; a good plant which would be sought after if an exotic.

An annual *artemisia*, from Russia, was chromoed by a large seed house a year or two ago as a great novelty, fragrant and fine for bouquets, but I could see no difference between it and the perennial and shrubby southernwood, *Artemisia Abrotanum*, which I have had always. My southernwood has had its ups and down; lots of old wood dies out now and then, but all damage is soon repaired. The hardwood stems grow three feet high, the divisions of the leaves are hair-like, somewhat like, but finer than, the foliage of a cosmos, bright green and feathery. Brush the plant lightly and its camphor-like odor is instantly perceptible. It has dropped out of cultivation because it is old, but it would now be a novelty to many and might well have a place. Its gray flowers are borne by the million, but are not much larger than pinheads. They have no beauty, though the tall, tapering spikes might be effective in certain places in the late season, and few plants have a more refreshing smell. It never seeds.

The little Star of Bethlehem, *Ornithogalum umbellatum*, is here again with its white star-like flowers which look straight up. Not very showy, it is yet a pleasant little thing with dark grass-like leaves six inches high, and its erect, branching flower stem is about the same. It forms offsets rapidly; reset every two or three years it will increase fast.

A large yellow iris, just opening, is of value for its fragrance and floriferousness. Its great broad clumps are crowned by a mass of bloom coming in quite a long

succession, its stems three feet high. Irises do not generally do very well with me,—the purple dwarf, *I. pumila*, has gone at last, and another large blue and purple sort flowers very little. Last year I set the Japan iris, *Kämpferii*, in a wet place; it grew well and much larger, and is now growing again. I hope it may bloom this season.

May 24th. The "golden candlestick" lily, *Lilium elegans*, is a favorite with me. I have known a single stalk to bear thirty-six flowers, and here is one with twenty-three buds and blossoms. The large, shining, red and orange, black-spotted flowers look directly upward, and come out in succession; the darkly polished leaves, thickly crowded on the stem, are very narrow. I do not know how long its bulbs live, but they are not immortal, else I should have a larger stock of them, for many offsets are produced. A dozen or twenty well grown stems standing together fairly blaze with color these days. I have had it many years,—sometimes I have a great many, then the death of an old bulb reduces my stock again. There is no need of resetting very often; an annual mulch of manure dirt or chip dirt, and a hoeing or two, keep them going, and a rich display of bloom can be had on the easiest terms. The lemon lily, *Hemerocallis flava*, differs from the last in that it never grows any smaller,—small clumps become large and large ones larger. The smooth, narrow, grass-like leaves make a tuft about two feet high; the leafless stems, coming from the root, which bear the flowers are three feet or nearly. The great sweet flowers are the clearest, brightest yellow inside and out; the long stamens are gracefully curved. A good plant in bloom on moist evenings will perfume the whole place. Mulch with chip dirt, old manure or rotted sod in late fall if you like; it will grow and bloom for years though let alone entirely. Divide and reset if you wish to increase your stock, otherwise it is not often necessary. It is a swamp plant naturally and does well in wet ground. I set a root below a "wet weather spring," in a spot as damp as can be without living water, and it increases year by year in the toughest sod. It comes from the shores of the Mediterranean, so it will bear more summer than it sees here, no doubt. It is one of the very best of hardy perennials,—almost too sweet. E. S. GILBERT.

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TUBEROUS BEGONIAS.

I AM tempted to write on tuberous begonia culture, not because I know so much about the subject, but because some people who grow these plants know so very little about them. I recently heard a woman soundly berate the florist of whom she bought her tuberous begonias, because they would not grow and bloom all winter after having been (as she expressed it) loaded with lovely

blossoms all summer long. I wondered at the time how she would enjoy a year's work, without any time for rest, day or night. It should be told again and again that the tuberous begonia is a summer blooming bulb,—one of our finest summer blooming bulbs.

Their culture is simplicity itself. In March or April (preferably the latter,) pot in light, sandy soil, only moderately rich, set in some warm place and keep the soil only moist. When they commence to grow, set them in a sunny window and keep them there until warm enough to plant out, unless you have a nice sunny veranda where they might spend a week or two before going into summer quarters. The garden soil should differ from that in which the bulbs were started only in one essential, it should be rich. When having the bed prepared have it well enriched with old, well rotted and very fine manure. An occasional watering with liquid manure (weak) or a light top dressing of fine manure worked into the soil with a



TUBEROUS BEGONIA.

hand weeder will add to the beauty and brilliancy of the blooms. They are strong growers and need rich food and plenty of it to do well. When transplanting disturb the roots as little as possible, in order not to check the growth.

If bedded where they have the sun only in the forenoon, or even not all of that, they do even better than when grown in an "all-day" sunny place. Water well in a dry season, but *never when the sun is shining on them* or their foliage will soon be spoiled.

After they are done blooming, take up the bulbs and dry off, as you would gladioli, pack in dry earth or sand and keep in a dry and perfectly frost-proof place. Those of my readers who are blessed with an old-fashioned, unused brick oven have an ideal place for storing summer bulbs.

If kept in pots, transfer to larger pots with soil prepared as for outdoor planting, at the time when the plants would otherwise be ready for the garden. Fertilize occasionally with some of the prepared plant foods or with liquid fertilizer.

After the begonias are done blooming gradually withhold water until the foliage is entirely dead, then without watering or any further care, set away where they will not freeze and will be free from moisture until another spring.

Those having access to leaf mold, such as can be obtained in the woods, or the earth from under the wood or chip pile, will find it an agreeable addition to their begonia beds, or to be used with other soil in pots,—it seems to be just what begonias delight in. D. L.

**

SOME OXALIS FAVORITES.

ONCE, as I potted a number of plants and bulbs for winter, I said that the plant which grew best and lived longest under my treatment, should be my special favorite. Now, strange to say, of all the plants so lovingly cared for, only two remain; and both are species of oxalis. These plants renew themselves without my aid, and always tell me when they need repotting, and if circumstances prevent their blooming at one time they will bloom another; so, I now think I would have chosen them for favorites even if they had not been the longest to survive.

The original tuber of *Oxalis floribunda rosea* has continued to grow and throw out offsets year after year, and is the finest plant of the kind I have seen. I remove the offsets when repotting, and give rich soil that will bear plenty of water; I find this soil under bushes at the margin of swamps. Have never used any kind of fertilizer for oxalis.

Oxalis floribunda alba is not as good in some respects as *O. rosea*, but I like it, as it contrasts well with the pink flowers.

Oxalis lutea is constantly renewed by bulbs. The flowers are a lovely shade of yellow, are borne in large clusters. Last winter one bulb, not an extra large one, bore twenty-eight large clusters, and was in bloom a long time. This is a winter bloomer and blooms only between October and May. The plants die down in June. I repot the bulbs from August to December, but find those potted in September usually do best.

I have added other species to my collection at different times.

My latest addition is unknown to me by name. It has long, leafy stems, leaves sessile, alternate, rather small, nearly entire, and the whole plant is soft and downy. The flowers are borne singly on long peduncles, are an inch or more in diameter, a bright crimson color with yellow on reverse of petals. As the plant branches freely I fancy it will be grand in full flower. It is just beginning (January 18th) to bloom. Who can tell me the specific name for this pretty oxalis?

Cheney, Wash.

SUSAN TUCKER.

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200,000

Average Monthly Circulation.

The Rathbun Blackberry.

A visit to the Rathbun fruit farm, in Chautauqua County, was made on the 16th of July by the writer, with the special purpose of seeing the new blackberry "on its native heath." The whole extent of the plantation is now something more than ten acres. The oldest portion of it consists of about two acres, and, of course, this plat is the point of greatest attraction. It may be said of the whole that it showed good care and cultivation, and excellent growth, and with all the plants in perfect health. The largest planting was made a year ago last spring, and is not yet in bearing condition. The bearing plants were heavily loaded with the large, handsome fruit, the picking and marketing of which had been commenced a few days previously. Like all fruits in this region, this blackberry is ripening very early, or nearly two weeks in advance of the usual time.

The persistent drouth of the spring and summer, which has been so severe in all of Western New York, and, in fact, in most parts of the State, has been still more intense in the extreme western counties, and berries of all kinds, and especially blackberries, show its effects in diminished size; to this the Rathbun is no exception. In order to compare the fruit this season with our published engravings and descriptions of it, the opportunity was taken to carefully measure it. We had stated that the berries would measure an inch by one and a half inches; on this occasion, notwithstanding the dry weather, a good proportion of the fruits measured one by one and three-eighths inches, while the most of them were not

quite so large, but all running large and quite even in size. A fair sample of the Snyder variety, procured from a neighbor, was, adjudged by all present as being but one-third the size of the Rathbun, by comparison. The Snyder was bringing in the market six and seven cents a quart, while a standing offer had been made for all the Rathbun berries, during the season, at ten cents a quart. The two varieties were retailed respectively at eight and twelve cents. While the Snyder was sour, with red spots, a hard core, and large seeds, the Rathbun was sweet, of a uniform dark black, shining as if varnished, and no hard core, but soft and sweet throughout and with seeds so small as scarcely to be noticed.

As to the hardness of the plant, our readers will bear in mind that we informed them in our June number, page 120, that at and in the neighborhood of the Rathbun farm, the mercury, last winter, indicated 24° and 26° below zero.

In comparison with other large-fruited varieties of the blackberry, such as the Kittatinny and the Minnewaski, we will say that, although we have not had the opportunity to bring them together, we have seen them within a few days of each other. The Rathbun, in our opinion, is decidedly larger than the Kittatinny, and probably averages larger than the Minnewaski, while in quality it is much superior to both.

If the Rathbun blackberry could be planted where in addition to good cultivation it could be opportunely irrigated, it would produce a marvellous crop of magnificent berries. But irrigation is out of the question in most localities, and it is a pleasure to say that grand crops of this blackberry can be raised with ordinary good culture, and the fruit will find eager purchasers at profitable prices.

**

Book Notes.

THE NUT CULTURIST. A treatise on the propagation, planting and cultivation of the nut-bearing trees and shrubs adapted to the climate of the United States, with the scientific and common names of the fruits known in commerce as edible or otherwise useful nuts. By Andrew S. Fuller. Published by the Orange Judd Company, New York. 290 pp. 12mo., cloth, \$1.50.

When it is considered that the United States sends abroad annually several millions of dollars for various kinds of nuts imported from foreign countries, the greater part of which could profitably be grown at home, it seems strange that so little attention has been paid by American farmers to the planting and raising of edible nuts. The author of this book has for many years made a careful study of the entire subject and has given in this volume the results of his experiences and investigations. In successive chapters he treats upon the almond, beechnut, castanopsis, chestnut, filbert, hickory, and walnut, giving a condensed account of their history, description of all the species and varieties, together with their propagation by seed or otherwise; modes of grafting

and budding, transplanting, pruning, gathering and marketing; insect and fungous enemies and the best means of preventing their ravages; and all the important details in regard to the methods and practices for the successful and profitable raising of nuts. Over 100 original illustrations embellish the volume, and an excellent portrait of the author is presented in the frontispiece. This will no doubt be highly acceptable to the legion of friends and admirers of Mr. A. S. Fuller, as it is the first portrait of him that has ever been published. It forms an appropriate accompaniment to this work, which, as being the last from his pen, may be considered a memorial volume of this able horticultural writer.

FAMILIAR TREES AND THEIR LEAVES. By F. Schuyler Matthews. With over 200 drawings by the author, and introduction by Professor L. H. Bailey. D. Appleton & Co., New York.

The very excellent illustrations in this work in connection with the descriptions will enable the general reader to accurately identify most of the species of trees of the Northern States, while the accompanying practical notes show for what purposes and in what situations the various kinds of trees may be satisfactorily raised. There is no doubt that there is to be a progressive increase from this time forward, as there has been for some time past, in the planting of ornamental and useful trees, and this volume will serve a useful purpose in the education of the people.

**

Papers on Rose Culture.

The series of papers on Rose Culture, by Allan Cheales, which are appearing in our pages, taken from the *Journal of Horticulture*, we believe to be keenly appreciated by most of our readers, or at least by all growers of roses, both for the pleasure which pervades them and for the many useful and practical suggestions they contain. Although written for the residents of England, yet they could hardly be more appropriate if intended primarily for the readers of this journal. The allowances that must be made for the differences in seasons are not more than would be required if definite directions were given for any part of this country, with its widely varying climates and weather peculiarities. The series will close with two more numbers, in which the interest and practical ability will be fully maintained.

Rich

Red blood comes by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, and that is why Hood's Sarsaparilla cures all forms of blood diseases. Remember

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills cures nausea, indigestion, biliousness. 25c.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

Keeping Seed Beans free from Bugs.

I noticed in the Magazine an inquiry about keeping bugs from beans. Put the beans, when dry, in a bottle or jar,—I use old olive bottles. Pour into each bottle a teaspoonful of chloroform, and cork it up and fasten it with sealing-wax to exclude the air. The beans will keep in this way for years without a bug. I have practiced this method for the past thirty years.

Mrs. J. M. R.

North Carolina.

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Otaheite Orange.

I received the Otaheite orange all right; it now has an orange forming on it. I wish you would tell me, through the Magazine, whether it requires much or little water. I have had many callers to see the tree in bloom and the fruit, and I wish to make a success of its growth.

Mrs. S. L.

Nebraska.

Keep the plant regularly supplied with a moderate amount of water. There is no particular trouble in its cultivation.

++

Strawberries.—Plant for Shaded Place.

Please tell me through the Magazine whether strawberry plants will do well in a shady place, provided the soil is good.

What flowers beside the pansy will do well where the ground is shaded a part of the day?

Granville, N. Y.

A. A. C.

Strawberries in a wild state often grow where they are partially shaded, and do well on the north side of a hill, where, however, they have the sun. They need not be expected to do as well in the shade as in the sun.

The petunia does particularly well in a partially shaded place.

++

Ants in the Lawn.

Will you kindly tell me what to do to destroy ants in the lawn?

L.

Westport, N. Y.

Use bisulphide of carbon. With a dibble or pointed stick make holes in the soil around the ants' nest, about six inches in depth and about a foot apart. Into each hole pour about a tablespoonful of bisulphide of carbon and immediately draw the soil together to close up the entrance. The bisulphide will permeate the soil as a vapor and destroy insect life. The substance is highly inflammable and should not be carried near fire.

++

Genista.

Please tell me through the Letter Box what care should be given the Genista. I purchased one of you about two years ago, and with the exception of a little spray the first spring, it has had no blossoms. It is a fine, healthy looking plant, about a foot high, and nearly the same in diameter. Is there danger of giving it too much root room?

M. E. W.

Whitesboro, N. Y.

The plant should be cut in somewhat, after the blooming season in spring, and then be repotted in light, but rich, soil, and be encouraged to make good growth during spring and summer, as the bloom the following season occurs on the new wood. Some liquid manure during the growing period will be helpful. By this time the plants have made their growth and ripened the wood which will afford the future bloom.

Calla.—Carnation.—Hydrangea.

Please inform me in the next issue of the Magazine what soil is best for the calla. Should they be cut down and repotted in the spring?

What soil is best for carnations?

What soil is best for hydrangeas?

M. E. G.

Rutland, Vt.

In regard to the calla it is only necessary to call attention to the very complete and valuable article about this plant in our June number, page 113.

The soil for carnations and hydrangeas may consist of two parts of good loam and one part each of leaf mold and sand. A small quantity of old, well rotted manure may be added and thoroughly mixed in.

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The Raspberry Borer.

Perhaps you remember my writing to you in August, 1894, about my Cuthbert raspberries. In your reply you said I did not explain the matter clearly enough, and I see that I did not. I noticed the trouble a few days ago and it is spreading fast. The young plants grow to be about a foot or two high when the upper portion wilts, and just below that are two gray rings very near together. I can snap the top off at that point while it is still green. I think I have found the insect that does the damage,—it is a black fly, not quite half an inch long, with a yellow neck, black head with two black hairs on either side and six feet. I have fifty feet of Cuthbert raspberries.

Mrs. F. S. C.

The insect described is the cane borer of the raspberry and the blackberry. The insect, after puncturing the young shoots in two rings all around, deposits an egg between the rings. From the egg is soon hatched a grub which grows to about an inch in length, and which bores down into the center of the cane. The remedy consists in cutting off the wilted tips below the lower ring and burning them. By prompt attention in this way the insects need not be allowed to make any increase, and the damage done will be little or none, while if left to themselves they will increase from year to year.

++

Root Lice on Asters.—Worms on Pansies.

I am trying your Branching asters for the third year. The seed germinated finely and the plants are growing well, but I notice some are dying,—examination reveals lice at the roots,—what remedy can I use?

A small greenish worm or slug is eating the leaves of my pansies, grown from your "Superb" variety. Is there anything I can use to kill them.

Tewksbury, Mass.

L. E. R.

Root lice may be attacked with advantage either by the use of tobacco water or kerosene emulsion. Prepare the tobacco water as used for the destruction of other insects,—a pound of tobacco or tobacco stems can be steeped and boiled and then strained and enough water added to make two gallons of the liquid. Draw away a part of the soil over the roots of the plants and apply the liquid, giving a good drenching. Another mixture that may be used is the following: Take a pound of soft soap and dissolve it in a gallon of rainwater and add to it a gallon of the tobacco water mentioned above, and apply as described. Kerosene emulsion may also be used in the same way.

For the green worm on the pansy plant use Paris green in the same manner as for the potato bug.

Second Crop Peas.—Potato-stalk Borer.

I planted the Charmer peas the latter part of April, in good soil, and had an excellent early crop. The first crop has been gone some days. Acting upon the advice I sent you last fall, I tried to have the old vines well preserved from being torn from the brush; and now a finer crop of peas was never seen in blossom than this second crop, and, in fact, today I picked full-grown peas from them. What is the experience of others, or is it only myself who is so wonderfully blest? Have been very anxious to see if a repetition of last season should prove my statement, and find my anxious surmises to be a settled fact, as my vines show. I will report later in regard to the second crop.

A third woe is now being pronounced upon our potatoes and from which there is no salvation by poisons. The first intimation we had of anything wrong was a wilting of the vines. On examination we found a hollow stalk; by following the heartless stem we found a gray worm from half an inch to an inch in length, and very spiteful in action, which seems to subsist wholly on the heart of the potato stalk and where no poison can reach it. In some stalks there can be found no ingress, in others a white spot is found on some portion of the vine, which seems to have a connection with the cavity made by the worm. It is very evident that a solution of Paris green has no effect on them, from the fact that I have kept the tops of my potatoes drenched with it as often as once or twice a week since the middle of May,—commencing when the top first appeared above the ground. The attention of a few of my neighbors was called to this, as I believe it to be, the first "woe" sounded on the potato crop, as I then expressed it, and this season I find them very much increased from last. Experiments should be urged upon farmers now, in order to meet their raid next season.

A. B. W.

Tunkhannock, Pa., July 15, 1896.

We hope in due time to have for publication a report of the second crop of peas, as here proposed.

The potato-stalk borer is probably the larva of the owlet moth, *Gortina nitela*. It was reported upon at some length, by Dr. Lintner, in the "First Annual Report on Injurious and other Insects of the State of New York," 1882. It attacks other plants besides the potato, among which may be mentioned the tomato, spinach, wheat, corn, dahlia, aster, lily, spiraea, salvia, milkweed, castor bean, rhubarb, peach twigs, currant twigs, cockle-bur, rag-weed, polygonum and pig-weed. It is also said to eat the fruit of the tomato and strawberry and to bore into the cob of ears of corn as well as the stalk. In the Report referred to the following remedial measures are advised:

When the insect occurs in the potato its presence can be readily detected by the withered stems before they have become broken down. By placing the point of a penknife in the opening and slitting the burrow upward, the caterpillar may be found and killed. If the field be large and too badly infested to permit the employment of this method, then, if the vines can be collected and burned before the month of September, all the larvæ or the pupæ which may be undergoing their change within the stems will be destroyed. As early potatoes are more liable to be infested by this borer than the later ones, the burning method may be easily resorted to.

FLOWER POTS. Save money by buying your pots direct from the manufacturer. We have the best equipped factory in the country. Send us memorandum of your wants and get rock bottom prices. We pay the freight.

Cambridge Tile Mfg. Co., Covington, Ky.

THE CRIMSON RAMBLER ROSE.

THE Crimson Rambler rose is perfectly hardy here in Bethel, Conn. I bought one in the spring of 1895; it was but four inches high at the time. I set it on the south side of my house and it made only two feet of growth in all the season; it stood all winter without any protection whatever, and this spring it started early and at the present time has 106 perfect buds and blossoms, and some of the

A BEAUTIFUL DWELLING HOUSE.

The engraving on this page shows an architecturally attractive and well proportioned house. The plan is convenient and speaks for itself. The

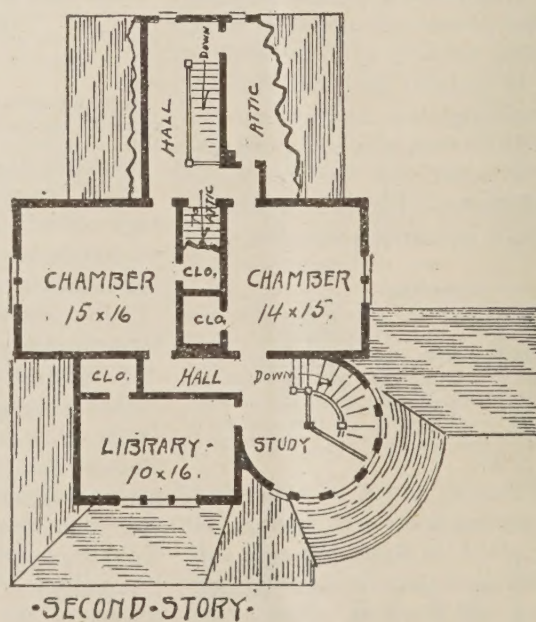
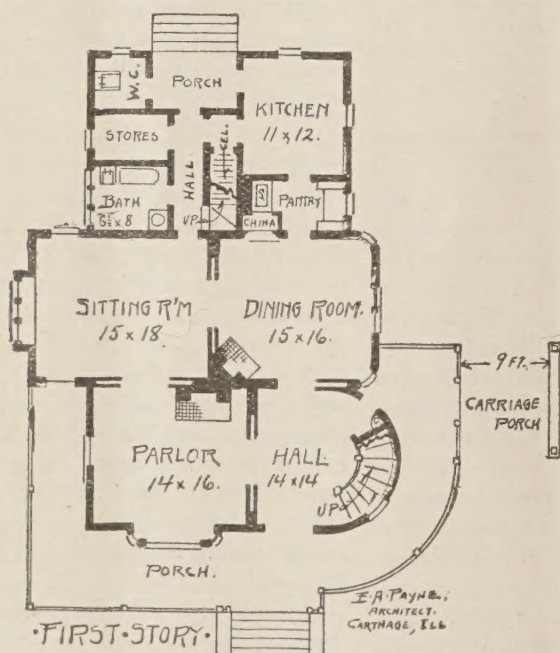
shingled. The house is finished outside with three coats of paint. The plastering consists of three coats of cement plaster. Hall, parlor, sitting room and dining room are trimmed in red oak, the rest of the house in white pine; all fin-



blossoms have been out for two weeks without dropping a single petal. After being out a few days they fade a little and this gives the clusters a very pretty appearance. In one cluster there were forty-two fine buds, and as they began to open it was a beautiful sight. The plant has sent out one side shoot which is at present (June 30th) five and one-half feet long and at least half an inch in diameter; by fall I think it will be fully twelve feet long. The blossoms are not as large as we are led to believe from the cuts in the catalogues, but it is made up in the length of

house is well suited to the requirements of a medium-sized family. The front hall contains a very beautiful staircase, built on circular plan, of Wisconsin red oak. But little room is taken up with the hall, but it gives access to the principal rooms on the first and second floors, and finishes on the outside with a treatment rendering it the most attractive feature of the exterior of the house. The hall in the second story is intended to have book shelves and divans or seats under the windows, making a very attractive reading room or lounging place. The front

ished natural in hard oil. Plumbing consists of sink in pantry, tub, bowl and water closet in bath room, water closet in room opening off rear porch, lavatory in front hall, supply tank in attic and force pump in cellar. Heated by a furnace. The size is 47x57 feet, not including the projection of carriage porch. Height of first story ten feet, second story eight feet six inches. A cellar is under the whole; the furnace room, which is under the sitting room, is eight feet deep, the rest of cellar seven feet. This house has been erected in



time the blossoms hang on, and as it is a little later than the standard sorts it lengthens out the season very much. I am greatly pleased with it, and it is admired by all who see it.

H. H. BROTHERTON.

room on second floor is designed for a library, but if desired would make an excellent chamber instead. The foundation is of stone. The outside is sheathed, papered and weatherboarded. Second story of circular hall, gables and roof are

Illinois complete for \$3,000. Any further information may be had by enclosing stamp to the architect, E. A. Payne, Carthage, Illinois, of whom full working plans may be obtained at reasonable rates.

TABLE DECORATIONS.



ANY think it almost foolish to use flowers on the table, but the wise woman does not mind what the foolish one thinks. How often does it happen that the very thought of the flowers on "mother's table" helps the son or daughter to a better, purer life?

In these days when fancy table linen is so much in vogue we all want a few pieces for our "company" table, but let us not put it all on for company,—whom can we best honor save our own? Then even for our every-day tables, if we can, let us have them neat and tidy, and at least in summer time a bit of a bouquet as a decoration.

I know a farmer's wife who is one of the busiest of women, though I must confess that her work does not all lie in drudging about her kitchen and feeding pigs and calves,—the latter she seldom does, though she is willing to do anything the need of the moment demands. She has never been strong, but she plans her work so she accomplishes a good deal, generally reads some every day, and uses flowers on her table most of the time. In the winter she has potted plants and flowering bulbs; sometimes there are but few in bloom, but the prettiest one has the pot draped with tissue paper, and is placed in the center of the table upon a bit of linen embroidered with Asiatic wash silk. In this way her table is seldom without flowers in the winter; she does not necessarily cut them unless she wishes to. In the summer sweet peas form one of the chief table decorations; she does not try to have anything elaborate,—just a small flower glass filled with the graceful blossoms, or sometimes a rose bowl overflows with wild roses or other common flowers.

In embroidering table linen for common use she does not try to have elaborate pieces; she uses a common white linen of firm texture and costing forty cents a yard, forty inches wide; by getting a forty inch length she can make four medium sized center pieces. She always uses the Asiatic wash silks as they are durable and beautiful even after laundering; yellow is a favorite color when color is wanted, because this harmonizes prettily with so many other colors, so this is used for a number of the common pieces. There is one of yellow daffodils, outlined with gold colored Asiatic etching silk; as it is only in outline it is quickly made. Another piece has yellow buttercups powdered over the surface, worked with Asiatic filoselle; the flowers are worked solid and are very beautiful.

There are some white pieces, and these are the favorites, as white embroidered linen is very effective. These are hem-

stitched and then have a row of fine feather stitching done with Boston art silk. A circle is then drawn which has a waving line of the feather stitching, and from this line run little branches on either side. This is a quick way of decorating linen, and it is pretty, too. All silk embroideries should be ironed on the wrong side, and it is not known to all that linen napery should be ironed before quite dry, it looks so much better and smoother.

I was about to say "Teach the children to love flowers," but we hardly need to teach them this love, it is generally inherent in every child heart. The love of flowers is ennobling and refining. Give a growing plant to a woman who is untidy and uncleanly and she will involuntarily clean the window that the plant may have light; then the clean window seems out of keeping with the rest of the squalor and untidiness, and she will gradually, almost imperceptibly, learn better ways and more tidy habits. We cannot be too careful in our own lives and ways, for it may be unconsciously we shall help some one to higher and better things.

ROSE SEELYE-MILLER.

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ROSE CULTURE.

Continued from page 133.

Pot Roses.—In respect of Tea roses I am rather in favor of buying them in pots in the spring and turning them out about June, or when the cold days of May are over. The same may be done with H. P.s, and a new rose bed thus formed even in the height of the summer. But then constant and plentiful watering will be required, otherwise fatal consequences may very probably ensue, and many other plants will then be clamoring for water also. A good gardener will know how to adapt himself to varying circumstances.

"The mouse, that only boasts of one poor hole,
Can never be a mouse of any soul."

PRUNING.

And now we will suppose that winter has been got through, and pruning time has arrived. It is an anxious time for exhibitors, searching out what the ravages of the season have been, and others can hardly view half their roses gone, with equanimity. But we will suppose that the frosts have been moderate, and are at last nearly over, and that the time has come for taking stock in the rosery. Only pruning will disclose what the state of things really is, and it is sometimes terribly necessary to keep on cutting down lower and lower. It is fatal to leave any branch with discolored pith. I am an advocate, under such circumstances, for very hard pruning. I suppose there is nothing shocks the inexperienced more than this.

Some of my friends in Surrey never could or would believe that standards pruned into something like the round tops of walking sticks, and bushes sliced off absolutely level with the ground, would ever be likely to revive again, much less yield good exhibition blooms, which I was able practically to show them is the case; whereas if long frost-bitten

branches are left on anywhere, how deplorable the sight is when they attempt to bloom.

My rule has been, weather permitting, to prune H. P.s in the last week in February, and Teas somewhere about the last week in March. This may be considered early pruning, but where buds have not started a frost or two does not signify, and late pruning risks bleeding, that dripping of the sap from the wounded place, which is very weakening. But in this, as in most else, it will be found that a pinch of practice is worth considerably more than even a pound of theory.

Briars.—Perhaps the race of briars, notably the Persian and Austrian, are the most difficult of all to deal with in respect of this matter. They bloom entirely on the new wood. If you do not prune them pretty hard, they make no new wood; if you do, they give no blooms. It is something like

"The rule of the road, 'tis a paradox quite,

Whether riding or driving along;

If you go to the left you will go to the right,

If you go to the right you go wrong!

"And so it's the best, someone has suggested,
To keep straight along!"

In the case of briars, Mr. Rivers suggests that "it's the best" to have two sets of plants, and prune on alternate years; but perhaps that is rather a nurseryman's way of looking at it.

Pegging Down.—A fashion of late has come in of pegging down. This is excellent where disbudding is not resorted to, and exhibition blooms are not required. Thus a bed of strongly grown H. P.s or Dijon teas will have their strongest branches bent over and pegged down for their full length, all the rest of the branches being pruned very close. In this way every shoot on each long branch should give a bloom, and the long array of upright trusses is often very effective. There is a fine single Crimson Rambler in a Reading garden trained in the shape of a royal crown, and treated after this fashion. Our Reading rose poet here supplies us with an aphorism:

"He who prunes his roses on a fence,

Will only get cuttings for recompense;

He who prunes with hurried haste,

Must not expect his blooms well placed."

The use of the Knife.—In one instance I object almost entirely to any use of the knife, and that is in the case of climbing roses. These should never be cut back. Dare I say it? I think gardeners, like some doctors, are too fond of the knife. "Spare the knife, or you spoil the plant" is my rule with most creepers. Speaking generally, of course, vigorous growth should be pruned moderately, or it may result in nothing but new wood, whilst moderate growth will bear cutting harder; but the long shoots of creepers, I maintain, though I am aware some excellent gardeners think otherwise, are best let alone altogether. Cut away all weak and twiggy wood, if you will, but never stop back a long shoot; if it be too long for its place, why, then, bend it over, and this will very likely give you a bloom at each bud.

I have sometimes been almost broken-hearted on being shown some grand old

Gloire de Dijon or Devoniensis, which might have covered a house, now sprawling along a side wall, hacked almost out of recognition. "Good man spare that plant" should be the label attached to all climbing roses.

Under Glass.—Never cut back climbing roses—except under glass. There I am out of my depth. I believe Marechal Niel may be made to bloom all along a twenty-foot shoot in a house, then cut back to three or four eyes, then made to produce two or three equally long shoots, and bloom on these the next season, and so with climbing Niphetos and others; but I have never myself had the courage to try. I have never quite mastered rose culture under glass. I think I will imitate the old Scottish minister: "My brethren," he said, "this is a knotty point, we will look it in the face—and pass on."

PROPAGATING.

I will speak first about raising from seeds. This might be done more than it is, and with good hope of new varieties, if only ripe hips were collected in autumn, sown where the ground need not be disturbed for some three or four years, and watched over with intelligent solicitude. Of course this is trusting to chance propagation, but that is what the earlier rose growers did, and with great success. This is sternly discountenanced by our Reading rose poet:

"He who sows by chance, and not by pedigree,
Must not expect the blue rose that the world
would see."

The process of hybridizing does not appear to be difficult; I suppose it is affected by carrying the pollen much as the bee does. The absolute theory appears to be this: The anther, the male organ, produces the pollen powder; this, being mixed with honey, attracts the bees. These pass from the anthers with pollen on them to the stigma, the female organ. If this is in a receptive condition when the bee arrives, fertilization takes place and a hip is formed. Where a flower has both anther and stigma, self-fertilization is the more frequent occurrence, which, of course, can give us nothing new. But sometimes the bee, or even the wind, anticipates, and then there is hope. Where fertilization is done by hand and under glass the chances of success are very considerably increased, and a good deal of this has latterly been done in England. In bygone days, I suppose by far the greater part of our French roses were happy chances, so also that excellent Cheshunt strain, notably the Duke of Edinburgh. Cheshunt Hybrid was a new departure, and began the hybrid tea class. Bennett declared that all his were pedigree roses, and very excellent ones he gave us, although some at first were failures, but Mrs. J. Laing and Her Majesty, and T. Princess of Wales can hold their own against anything. In Ireland the Dicksons, of Newtownards, of late have quite come to the front. Their Jeannie and Margaret Dickson are amongst our best H. P.s, Mrs. W. J. Grant is a high-class H. T., and Ethel Brownlow a good exhibition Tea.

Also Lord Penzance has been active and successful. His experiments among

the Sweet Briars have given us some very charming varieties, amongst which, not their least virtue being their sensible Walter Scott names. Rose Bradwardine is a lovely rose, and Meg Merrilies a very good crimson. Unhappily it is not possible to put back the clock; as Scott says somewhere,

"That which moulders hemp and steel,
Mortal arm and nerve must feel."

"In my eightieth year," writes Lord Penzance, "the needful energy begins to fail. I have continued my labors every season up to the present (1895)." He has even been attempting, he tells us ("Rosarian Year Book," 1896), the two great rose problems, Why not a yellow H. P.? Why not a blue rose? "As the possible parents of a yellow rose," he continues, "nothing presents itself so naturally as the yellow briar. I collected a quantity of the pollen of these roses and operated on the pollen of several H. P.s, notably General Jacqueminot and Jean Chérpin. I obtained abundance of hips and in due time plenty of seed, abundance also of plants, but so far no results. One plant, indeed, about three or four years ago, did give signs of the Briar parentage, and the flower presented a very pretty mixture of crimson and yellow, but it was very shapeless and turned out almost impossible to propagate. In the blue rose I collected the pollen of a Hungarian rose, 'Erinnerung au Brod.' I had no difficulty in obtaining plants from the pollen of this rose with several of the H. P.s, but none has yet bloomed (1895), and I cannot trace in growth or foliage any distinct evidence that the qualities of the pollen parent are represented in the progeny."

We have also in our midst one of the greatest authorities on hybridization and the most successful operator, perhaps, in the world, and may look for great things should he ever find time to take up roses in earnest.

Lord Penzance, it is true, tells us he has a vast number of seedlings only fit to be thrown away, but that is, of course, the experience of all operators. It is only in rare instances that they say 'I will have that one kept.' There is more choice amongst kittens, though even that is limited.

Another principle is one that has been carried even further. The other day a boy of ten, the son of a friend of mine, who had been brought home from school to see his twin sisters christened, when the service was over and the babies were being brought into the room to be admired, regarded the first with much interest; but when another nurse arrived with the other he turned very red, and inquired rather anxiously, "Will they kill that one?" and was much relieved by being informed it had been decided to keep both!—*Alan Cheales, in Journal of Horticulture.*

TO BE CONTINUED.

* *

Do not fail to read
the advertisement
on 4th cover page

WHITEWASH FOR EXTERIOR OF BUILDINGS.

The Washington or government whitewash is made as follows: Take half a bushel of unslacked lime, slake it with boiling water, cover during the process to keep in steam, strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer, and add to it a peck of salt, previously dissolved in warm water, three pounds ground rice boiled to a thin paste and stirred in while hot, half a pound of Spanish whiting and one pound clean glue, previously dissolved by soaking in cold water and then hanging over a slow fire in a small pot hung in a larger one filled with water. Add five gallons hot water to the mixture, stir well and let it stand a few days, covered from dirt. It should be applied hot, for which purpose it can be kept in a kettle or portable furnace. The east end of the President's house at Washington is embellished by this brilliant whitewash. It is used by the government to whitewash lighthouses.

A pint of this wash mixture, if properly applied, will cover one square yard, and will be almost as serviceable as paint for wood, brick or stone, and is much cheaper than the cheapest paint.

Coloring matter may be added as desired. For cream color add yellow ochre; pearl or lead, add lamp or ivory black; fawn, add proportionately four pounds of umber to one pound of Indian red and one pound common lampblack; common stone color, add proportionately four pounds raw umber to two pounds lampblack.

Have you seen

the new lawn game? If you have a lawn twenty-four feet square, you have a good place to play

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It is easy to learn and easy to play, furnishing a gentle and pleasant exercise. A little more expensive than croquet alone, but look at the game.

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Rules and Description of game sent on request. We will send this game to anyone, express prepaid, at the following prices

No. 5 Vicktory - \$3.75

No. 5½ Vicktory - 4.00

No. 5½ contains extra stake and croquet arches.

State where you saw this adv.

JAMES VICK, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

DESTINY.

A cypress-vine by day,
And a moonflower by night,
Bloomed o'er the same gateway
And suffered this cruel spite—
They loved, but never spoke;
Were together, yet far apart;
For at morn the cypress awoke,
And night showed the moonflower's heart.
Crimson with flush of love
Glowed the passionate cypress vine;
Pale as Diana above
Did the hapless moonflower pine.
With hand-clasp-like embrace,
As each read the other's heart,
They met,—not face to face,
But as friends whom a veil did part.
The sable veil of night
Ever hides the pale moonflower
From her true lover's sight,
Who sees but the sunny hour.
They met, and hand touched hand,
And each read the other's heart,—
Yet ever must they stand
As the day and the night apart.

W. E. BALL.

* *

THE HUBBARD SQUASH AND
HOW TO GROW IT.

When we consider the great improvement that has been made in the quality of almost all garden vegetables during the last half century, it is a remarkable fact that the Hubbard squash, known and cultivated nearly a hundred years ago, continues to be the most popular variety. There has been improvement in uniformity of form and color, and a careful inspection of a forty-acre field, grown for seed, failed to discover more than twenty-five fruits which showed any signs of mixture or of being off type. But, while the stock has evidently become more fixed in external character, there are those who maintain that it has deteriorated in the quality of flesh; that the rich, dry, sweet, chestnut-like quality which made this sort so popular fifty years ago, is lost. I think this apparent loss is due to other causes than the deterioration of the stock.

There are no plants of our gardens in which the quality of fruit is so dependent upon conditions of soil and climate. Gardeners know that it is quite impossible to grow a really good melon in cold, wet soil, and that one ripened in a cold, damp atmosphere is certain to be lacking in flavor and sweetness. The same thing is true of squashes, and to develop the nut-like dryness and sweetness they must be grown in warm, dry soil, and thoroughly ripened in warm, dry weather. Unlike most plants of the garden, they will produce more fruit and of a better quality on plants of moderate vigor than on those of rapid and rank growth. Again, squashes, like beans, are more benefited by applications of potash and phosphoric acid, but are unlike the legumes in seeming to get much good from these elements when in a comparatively slowly soluble form.

To grow good table squashes, then, warm, dry, moderately rich soil should be selected, and cultivation be begun as early in spring as possible. A liberal dressing of wood ashes is necessary,—a full bushel to the square rod being as little as should be used. Just before planting, which we do about the 20th of May, the ground should be plowed and har-

rowed and marked out for hills about ten feet apart each way. At the intersection a handful of guano, hen manure or superphosphate should be scattered, and also one of fine ground bone dust or flour. Thoroughly mix this with the soil for a space two feet in diameter, and plant from twelve to twenty seeds, scattering them well, as in this way one or two plants can often be saved from cut worms and striped bugs, which would have destroyed all if the plants had been close together. We do not know of any certain protection against the striped bug. Dusting with wood ashes, with lime fresh slacked, with a little sulphur, sprinkling with diluted gas-tar water, or with liquid manure made from fresh hen droppings, are each more or less effective, and will sometimes seem to keep the insects off, but at others utterly fail to do so.

My advice is to use any or all of them. The lime and ashes should be diluted with bran and plaster, or, better still, with tobacco dust; if used abundantly there is danger of killing the leaves with strong alkalies. As soon as the large squash bugs appear they should be trapped under pieces of board or shingle laid near the plants and examined in the cool of the evening, when the bugs will be found hiding on the under side, and can be easily caught and killed. Give as little cultivation as possible, only enough to keep the ground clear of weeds and the surface broken after heavy rains. When the plants are well started thin out, leaving two or three to each hill, and when these are three to four feet long remove the surface soil under a joint twelve to eighteen inches from the root. Press the vine down into it, and fasten it, so that the stem will arch up between this point and the root, and cover with earth. If the soil is at all dry water thoroughly, covering the wet surface with dry earth. The vine will make root from the buried joint, and in this way it will often escape death from the borer working at the collar.

In spite of all claims to the contrary, I am certain that the quality of squashes is often affected by the fertilization of the flowers with pollen from some inferior stock. In garden culture it is quite feasible to prevent this by going over the patch at evening, and preventing the female flower, which would naturally open the next morning, from doing so by tying the tips of the blossom, and treating a few male flowers in the same way. About nine o'clock the next morning pick the male flowers; carefully tear away the corolla and fertilize the opened female flowers by dusting or rubbing some of the pollen from the male flower over the pistil, then closing and retying the female

flower. While there will be failure to accomplish the purpose in some cases, enough self-fertilized fruits can easily be secured for a full crop, and any others which may appear can be cut out.

As the fruits mature they should be protected from the sun unless they are well shaded by the leaves. When fully ripe, which may be known by their developing a shell so hard as not to be easily penetrated by the thumb nail, and by the part resting on the ground turning to a rich yellow, they should be gathered and stored in an open building until there is danger of freezing. In gathering, care should be taken not to break the stem of the fruit, the vine being cut instead; and also not to injure the surface.

Grown and treated in this way the Hubbard squash will be found to have all its old-time excellence. The causes of inferior quality are that it is grown in too rich and wet soil; late sowing, so that it does not mature until cold, wet weather sets in; and leaving the fruits on the vines exposed to injury from hot sun and cold nights after its maturity.—*Garden and Forest.*

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MIGNONETTE.

Only a little flower,
A sprig of mignonette,
Plucked with a trembling hand
From the Garden of Regret.

Only a bitter cup
Pressed to a woman's lips,
Poisoning heart and mind
With every drop she sips.

Of all the brilliant dreams,
One she can ne'er forget,—
All that is left her now
Is a sprig of mignonette.

Still there's a drop of joy
In the dregs of this bitter cup:
The Lord, in loving kindness,
The broken heart binds up.

And tender Mem'ry still
Can wipe away regret,
Can perfume heart and mind
With a sprig of mignonette.
LISETTE CLAYTON HOOD.

* *

POINTS TO REMEMBER.

Prepare now the ground intended for lawn and have it ready to seed down the latter part of this month. It is the best time of all the year for seeding.

New sowings can be made of turnips, spinach, radish, cress and lettuce for late use. A good fertilizer applied before sowing the seed will push the young plants into growth, and will not add weed seed, as might stable manure.

The seeds of many kinds of perennials can now be sown to good advantage, and will make plants this fall strong enough to winter well and be ready to start into growth early in spring. Select a nice sheltered spot for them in the garden, make the soil mellow and fine, and sow the seeds carefully, from a quarter to half an inch in depth, according to size, and press the soil down on them when covering. Attend to watering, if the weather should be dry. Some of the stronger growing kinds may become large enough to transplant successfully this fall, and those of slower growth can be left until spring. All should have a slight covering of leaves in the late fall for protection from frost.

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offering at price of the
imported seed.

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Extra Early Purple Top Milan . . .	\$0 90
Early Purple Top-Strap Leaved . . .	50
Early White Top Strap Leaved . . .	50
Purple Top White Globe	50
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New White Egg	50
Cow Horn, or Long White	60
Orange Jelly, or Golden Ball	50
Yellow Globe	50
Purple Top Yellow Aberdeen	40

At prices quoted we deliver seed to
your door.

James Vicks Sons,
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The last of the month is a good time to make a new strawberry bed or plantation, if the young plants are well rooted. Every garden should have a new strawberry bed every year, as only in this way can good crops of the finest fruit be secured. Be sure and plant a good proportion,—at least a fourth,—of staminate plants with the pistillate varieties.

* *

THE COLORS OF PANSIES.

An interesting and instructive article has lately appeared in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in relation to "The History of Pansies," by Professor V. B. Wittrock, of Stockholm. The following short extract is particularly entertaining:

In respect to coloring, pansies show a far greater variety and wealth than all the parent species, whatever variety of color a couple of these may present. There is scarcely any color or shade,—with the exception of green, which is so unusual a color in flowers,—that is not represented in one variety of pansy or the other. Selfs are white, yellow, red, violet, blue, brown and black. The colors most difficult of production for the pansy-raiser are pure blue and pure red. There are now, however, blue pansies of several kinds. Clear reds in firey-red and blood red are still a desideratum.* Many-colored pansies, as is well known, exist of almost innumerable kinds. That which is common to nearly all of them,—but is not found in the parent species of the pansy—is the large dark blotch at the base of the three lower petals. These blotches are evidently derived from the dark rays of the wild ancestors of the pansy.

Whatever variety of color the pansy may show, one part of the flower is always of the same color, viz., the so-called eye, or that part of the lowest petal which is immediately in front of the entrance to the spur. This eye, called by botanists the honey-guide, is always bright yellow, and is the same in all pansies, even in selfs. This yellow spot, which is the guiding star to insects when visiting the flowers—which is of such great importance for the fertilization—seems to have reached such a degree of resistance to all the changes of outer life that it will not give way to anything.

The same seems to be the case as regards the color of the spur, as in all pansies which I have had the opportunity of examining,—even the pure white, pure yellow, etc.—the spur, at any rate towards the tip, is colored with violet of a lighter or darker shade.† Why the violet color so perseveringly remains through all circumstances on this limited spot, is not easy to explain. It is probable that it serves as a kind of protection for the honey contained in the upper part of the spur.

* A couple of the very latest kinds, viz., Cardinal, in firey-red, and Victoria, in blood-red, are very near the mark.

† Both as regards the color of the eye and the spur, the pansies thus agree with *Viola tricolor*, L.

NO FRUIT TREES FOR THE ROADSIDE.

The suggestion is frequently made of planting fruit trees along the country roadsides, and the subject is often presented by the agricultural press and the newspapers, sometimes with calculations of the amount of fruit that might thus be raised, and with accounts of the practice in different European countries. When the subject is well considered it will be seen that the practice is not a desirable one. All of our northern fruit trees, the apple, pear, cherry, plum and peach, are so subject to the attacks of various insects and diseases as to require systematic

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treatment to destroy these enemies and enable them to produce their crops. One of the worst features of fruit growing is the mass of neglected trees in orchards and gardens and about dwellings, where insects and fungi breed and swarm out to prey upon the crops of the careful cultivator. The many insect pests of the apple and the pear, of the plum and the cherry and the peach, the codlin moth, the tent caterpillar, canker worm, bud-moth, fall web-worm, borers, the apple maggot, bark louse or scale, pear-tree psylla, curculio, gouger, aphides of different kinds—black knot, leaf blight, peach yellows and scores of others, would find a congenial home in these roadside trees, which would be sure to be neglected, and from which they would constantly invade the cultivated grounds of the orchardist. Certain species of our native wood trees can best supply the stock for roadside and street planting. It would be far better that laws should be passed in every State prohibiting the planting of fruit trees on the roadsides.

ICE CREAM MADE BY A NEW PROCESS.

I have an ice cream freezer that will freeze cream instantly. The cream is put into the freezer and comes out instantly, smooth and perfectly frozen. This astonishes people and a crowd will gather to see the freezer in operation and they will all want to try the cream. You can sell cream as fast as it can be made, and sell freezers to many of them who would not buy an old-style freezer. I is really a curiosity and you can sell from \$5 to \$8 worth of cream and six to twelve freezers every day. This makes a good profit these hard times and is a pleasant employment. W. H. Baird & Co., 140 S. Highland Ave., Station A, Pittsburg, Pa., will send full particulars and information in regard to this new invention on application, and will employ good salesmen on salary.

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Pansy, Azure Blue, extra fine	\$0 10	Pansy, Violet, white border	10
Black, with bronzy center	10	White, sometimes slightly marked with purple	10
Bronze-color	10	Yellow Gem, clear yellow, without eye	10
Dark Blue, very rich and constant	10	Yellow-margined, margin or belt of yellow	10
Dark Purple, rich, deep purple	10	<i>One packet of each of above twenty-two \$1.60.</i>	
Emperor William, ultramarine blue, violet-purple eye, new	10	Mixed Seeds of above sorts	10
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King of the Blacks, almost coal black, comes true	10	our own supervision; mixed colors	15
Light Blue, lovely shade of sky-blue	10	German, fine mixed	10
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